

Arizona Forest Health Council
Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body
Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE –
Arizona Forest Health Council

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Arizona Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Arizona Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

Arizona Public Service
400 W Longhorn
Payson, AZ 85541
Thursday, May 9, 2013
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Tele Conference Number: 1-877-820-7831
Passcode: 219418#

Minutes

1. Call to Order – 10:00 am Chair, Scott Hunt

Members Present:

Chair Scott Hunt, Pascal Berlioux, Don Berry, Neil Bosworth, Kent Bushman, Gary Moore for Robert Davis, Steve Gatewood, Supervisor Tommie Martin, Mayor Jerry Nabours, and Sue Sitko

Members via Tel-Conference:

Nicole Farr

Members Absent:

Wally Covington (excused), Bruce Hallin, Kevin Kinsall, Steve Rosenstock, Darrell Willis (excused) and Todd Schulke

Public:

Jim Gumm, US Forest Service Tonto National Forest; Jerry Payne, Deputy State Forester, and Patrick Rappold, Wood Utilization & Marketing Specialist Arizona State Forestry.

Chair Scott Hunt welcomed the Forest Health Council members and guests in attendance.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the March FHC Meeting ~

- Pascal Berlioux moved for approval; Steve Gatewood second.
- Minutes were approved.

3. Council Representation Update ~ Scott Hunt

- Jerry Nabour, Mayor of Flagstaff was welcomed as a new member.
- Sue Sitko was introduced as the new Co-Chair.
- Scott informed the Council that Todd Schulke had withdrawn from the membership.
- Tribal, community and ranching vacancies were discussed. Don Berry will contact Clayton from the Hopi Tribe.

4. Presentation: Forest Incentive Program ~ Patrick Rappold

- Patrick Rappold gave a short presentation on the State's Healthy Forest Enterprise Incentives Program. Pascal asked if Patrick would participate in a working meeting to sin businesses up in the White Mountains. Patrick agreed and will work with Pascal and Bill Greenwood to arrange the meeting.

- Scott reported that Arizona State Forestry will develop Best Management Practices and Standards for hazardous fuel reduction and restoration projects as a tool for private land owners.

5. Presentation USFS Budget Allocation Process ~ Neil Bosworth, USFS

- Scott discussed what had been asked at the Bridging the Gap meeting and one of the requests was for the Forest Service to explain more about their budgeting process. Scott introduced Neil Bosworth.
- Neil distributed handouts about Budget Line Items (BLI's). He discussed the fuels funding and the Washington office formula. He did not exact details from the WO or Region.
- Sue wanted to know what projects were funded by which dollars, as directed by Congress. "Was the money used in the right places, - Congress wants to know." Neil stated that the Forest Service is working on this but cannot track the funds that exactly.
- Bottom line is the Region is looking at the gaps and is not going to let anything fall, but that Regional Commitments are just that and must be funded.
- Scott asked about transparency, "how can one find out what a regional or forest budget is? Neil said the budgets are viewable internally, but he did not think externally. He said that he would ask the question up the line.
- Scott asked if the fact that Region 3 is traditionally underfunded, something the policy committee of the Forest Health Council wants to take on.

6. State Update ~ Scott Hunt

- **Legislation** ~ Scott stated that not much is happening but the Legislature is still in session.
- **Fire Season** ~ Scott handout out the State Daily Executive Summary and asked if anyone wanted to receive it. Tommie, Pascal and Kent would like to receive the daily summary.

7. Statewide/National Forestry Activity Update

- **Forest Industry Committee Report on Roads ~ Scott Hunt**
 - Scott gave an update on the roads issue and informed the Council that ADOT has backed off the weight limits on Highways 261 and 273, as well as the length restrictions on Highway 191. He reported that the State is exploring options for funding one-time costs in road upgrades, but that the funding has not been found at the present.
 - Road maintenance costs were brought up and it was stated that \$1 in maintenance today equals \$6 in reconstruction costs later. Pascal stated that the Council should stay active in the effort to get additional maintenance funds for the anticipated increased log truck traffic.
- **Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project Update ~ Jerry Nabours**
 - Jerry Nabours gave an update on the project.
- **4 FRI ~ Steve Gatewood**
 - An update was given on 4FRI and the work being done to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
 - There is no update on Pioneer.
 - It was reported that Don Walters has bought 220 acres in Winslow for an OSB plant.

- ***Investment Strategies to Restore Arizona Forests & Watersheds***
 - There was an update given on *Investment Strategies to Restore Arizona Forests & Watersheds* conference which is being planned for October 1-2, 2013.
- ***WFLC, CWSF, & WGA – Scott Hunt***
 - Scott gave an update on what he found out at Western Forestry leadership Coalition meeting.
 - Not sure on the impacts of sequestration on State funding yet.
 - Federal Fire Policy may allow more fires to burn for multiple objectives and they will work with other agencies to coordinate this. Neil stated the Tonto's Risk Workshop was basically about this topic and how the agencies will share risk.
 - Incentives from other states and statistics of the revenues generated by harvest on State lands in other states were discussed. Scott distributed a handout.
 - WGA sunsetted the Forestry Committee. They will be starting the Western Regional Cohesive Strategy Committee.
- ***Urban Forestry Subcommittee Status – Jerry Payne***
 - There was no update on the committee at this time.

8. **Call to the Public**

- None

8. **Meeting Schedule and Locations**

- The next meeting will be July 11, 2013 in Flagstaff. A field trip will be planned around current projects.

Don Berry made a motion to adjourn. Sue Sitko seconded motion. Meeting was adjourned at ???? pm

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as results of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further considerations and decisions at a later date.

*Dated this June 6, 2013
Arizona Forest Health Council
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>*